LEVEL 1 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Download this document, print it off and keep it to hand as you progress through the level 1 lessons. It contains answers to all the most frequently asked student's questions. It will save you a ton of time by getting fast answers to your questions!

Q. What is the difference between WordPress.com and WordPress.org?

A. WordPress.com is hosted by WordPress itself, meaning that WordPress hosts your blog and WordPress controls what you can and cannot do with your blog. You also have limited features and flexibility. Because of these reasons, WordPress.com is not really suitable for commercial purposes where you intend to use your blog to make money. Additionally, a lot of the required features we use in the course are not free on WordPress.com, but they **are** free on WordPress.org

WordPress.org is self-hosted. Meaning that you install the WordPress software on your own hosting. This gives YOU complete control and more flexibility. ***This courses uses WordPress.org. Follow the lessons for getting hosting and installing WordPress.org***

Q. What if I already have a blog on WordPress.com. Will I still be able to follow everything taught in the course?

A. Not everything, no. You will be able to follow a lot of the lessons, but there are some that you won't because some features are not available with WordPress.com. Some students DO keep their existing blog on WordPress.com and still continue with the course. However, unless your blog is already established, I recommend that you begin a new one by following the lessons to install the WordPress.org software on your own hosting as shown.

Q. What if I have already started to create a blog on a free website builder, like Wix, or Weebly, or Blogger. Can I still follow the course lessons?

A. It would be difficult. Also, these website builders do not allow you complete control over the content of your blog. They host your blog and therefore they are in control, not you. WordPress is by far the best and once you get the hang of it, it's also the easiest! This is why WordPress.org is the most popular

website/blog software in the World. If you are serious about blogging, you need it ☺

Q. Can you help me choose a niche?

A. Not really because only YOU know what you are interested in, or what you would be passionate enough about to keep going without getting bored.

Virtually any niche can be successful. Watch the lessons on niche selection again and spend some thinking about this before you get started

Q. How do I log into my blog?

A. The log in page is 'yourdomain.com/wp-admin'

Example: madaboutfiction.com/wp-admin

Log in with the username and password you created when you installed WordPress

Q. I went to the log in page for my blog, but I get a blank page, or 'page not found', or similar. What could be wrong?

A. If you purchased your hosting and domain name separately, check that you followed the lesson to connect your domain to your hosting. If you did, check that you entered the nameservers correctly. Also, remember that it can take up to 24 hours to take effect.

Q. My hosting or my cpanel looks different to the Instructor's. Why?

A. The Instructor probably has a different hosting plan to you, but it doesn't matter. The hosting plan recommended in the lecture on getting hosting, has everything. It may be that some things are in different positions on the cpanel, but they are still there!

Q. My WordPress dashboard looks different to the Instructor's. Why?

A. The WordPress software is continuously updated to fix bugs in the system and to improve the technology. However, although the 'look' of the dashboard changes frequently, the features and functions remain the same.

Q. Can I change my theme later?

A. Yes you can change your theme as often as you wish. If you change your theme after adding content, like posts, and sidebar content etc, you will probably have to reformat some of the content

Q. My theme does not have a footer menu, so I am trying to create the menu by using a widget (as shown in the course), but it's not working. The links in the footer do not work, or they go to an error page. What am I doing wrong?

A. The most common reason for this, is extra HTML, or missing HTML. Go back to the widget and check that you have entered everything correctly.

Q. I have chosen a different theme (not the one used in the course) and there are some things I don't know how to do. Where do I get information specific to my theme?

A. All themes have theme documentation. Some themes also have support forums. Since there are 1000's and 1000's of themes, it's impossible for the instructor or the teaching assistant to know them all.

A quick way is to Google it!

Example: 'how to do xyz with xyz theme'.

Q. My theme does not have any footer widgets. Is it still a suitable theme?

A. Yes, providing it has a footer menu. If it has no footer menu and no footer widgets, then it's not suitable because without one or the other, there is no way of putting a menu in the footer